letter, published in part as a footnote on page 126 in Ward's "Climates of the United States."

Considering particularly the Baltimore records, it is found that the average mean temperature for January, based upon the daily means for 53 years (1873–1925) is 34.3°. The average for the first decade is 34°; second decade, 34.5°; last decade, 34.5°. Taken by decades, the month would appear to average practically uniform in normal daily mean temperature, and, as a matter of fact, there are no very strong variations from day to day except for the period 21st-23d, inclusive.

The abrupt rise of 4° in this 53-year average, starting on the 20th and culminating on the 21st, and the persistence of mildness through the 22d, and, in a less marked degree, through the 23d, followed by a sharp drop of 2.5° on the 24th and almost uniformly normal conditions the last five days of January, form one of the most notable features of the temperature records of Baltimore. No other month shows anything like so pronounced a fluctuation from the long-period averages.

The three-day period, 21st–23d, averges 36.9°, which is 2.6° higher than the average for the month, 2.8° higher than for the three days preceding the 21st–23d, and 3.5° higher than for the succeeding three days.

If we take the two-day period, 21st–22d, it averages 37.4°, or 3.1° higher than the monthly normal, 3.3° higher than the preceding three days, and 4.0° higher than the succeeding three days.

This high average for the period, January 21–23, is not due to a few very warm days on these dates. These days were frequently mild, as shown by the following: The two days, 21st and 22d, taken together averaged above normal 35 times out of 55, or 64 per cent; the 21st alone averaged above normal 74 per cent, and the 22d alone, 69 per cent.

But while the average shows up this strongly for frequency of occurrence, there were strong variations in the frequency within the 55 years. Frequency was high during the first 8 years (1873 to 1880); very low from 1881 to 1893, with only two occurrences in the 13 years; very high from 1894 to 1917, with 19 occurrences in the 24 years; fairly frequent for the last decade, 1918 to 1927, with 6 occurrences in the 10 years.

Dividing the record of 55 years into halves, we find that at Baltimore the temperature averaged above normal for the period January 21–23, during the first half (1873–1899), 16 times, or 57 per cent; for the second half (1900–1927), 19 times, or 70 per cent.

No explanation of the cause of the abnormality has ever been offered, so far as the writer knows. It may be worth remarking that it comes just after the head of winter and seems to attend the initiation of lengthening days and the first pulsation toward spring. The mind holds to the belief that such irregularities are temporary and are smoothed out in the course of time; that records for some hundreds of years will give an annual temperature curve devoid of irregularities. As stated by Professor Marvin, "The human mind knows no reason why there should be an irregularity of this character; we are compelled to think of the normal temperature as a smooth progressive curve."

The immediate cause of each occurrence of the spell is readily seen from an examination of the weather maps. It is almost needless to say that they are caused by low-pressure areas moving eastward or northeastward, traversing the Lake Region and the St. Lawrence Valley, or the Ohio Valley and the North Atlantic States, and inducing southerly winds in the eastern States.

A file of weather maps for the years 1901 to 1927 was examined to discover the types of maps that produced the mild spells. In the 19 cases investigated it was found that LOWS (Alberta type) moving eastward over the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Valley produced 10 of the spells; LOWS coming from the far southwest and passing northeastward over the Ohio Valley or the Atlantic States caused 4; simultaneous movement of Alberta and southwestern (or Texas) LOWS caused 3; and LOWS that formed, or developed, over the Middle West or the Ohio Valley and moved northeastward caused the remaining 2.

NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

DISTRIBUTION OF BULLETINS OF THE MOUNT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

The Weather Bureau still possesses a number of the separate parts of Volumes I–VI of the above-named publication. Individuals, institutions and organizations lacking a complete file will be supplied with missing numbers so far as possible on application to Chief of Weather Bureau. Application for parts of any volume that may be desired will also be received and filled so far as the supply will permit.—*Editor.*

FURTHER NOTE ON "PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGY"

Since the publication of the note under the above title in the November 1926 issue of this Review (p. 465), we have received the full text of the minutes of the eighth session of the International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation, held at Geneva in July, 1926. From this we reprint the whole of Annex 2, dealing with the—

QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Report by the Sub-Committee appointed at the Meeting of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation on July 29th, 1925, submitted to the Committee on July 26th, 1926.

At the Sixth Session of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, held at Geneva from July 27th to July 29th, 1925, the Chairman communicated to the Committee a proposal submitted by M. van Everdingen, Director of the Netherlands Meteorological Observatory and Chairman of the International Meteorological Committee (I.M.C.), with regard to the creation of an International Bureau of Meteorology (I.B.M.) (Annex 4 to document C.445, M.165, 1925).

After a brief discussion, the Committee requested the undersigned to consider, together with M. van Everdingen and several other experts, how the Committee might assist in establishing this Bureau.

The present report sets out our conclusions:

M. van Everdingen's proposal was defined in a letter which General Delcambre, Director of the French Meteorological Service and Chairman of a special Committee set up by the International Meteorological Committee, addressed officially to the International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation on November 23rd, 1925.

The International Meteorological Committee is composed of the directors of the meteorological services of thirty countries (including Germany and Austria), who meet once every three years to